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East Lyme, Conn. A pretty close search of the salt marshes in this vicinity has failed to discover it at any other station, so that it must be accounted very rare in the State. It has, however, been collected by several persons on Fishers Island, N. Y., and is reported from Watch Hill, R. I., just over the Connecticut State line, but whether it is abundant or rare at these points I cannot say.

Desmodium sessilifolium, Torr. & Gray. This species was found in the extreme south part of the town of Norwich, Conn., near the track of the N. L. N. R. R. On the north shore of Trading Cove, which separates Norwich from Montville, rises a steep rocky and sandy hill covered with a mixed growth of hard woods, pitch pines, and hemlocks. The *Desmodium* grows, not very abundantly, on the warm southern slopes of this hill. More or less is to be found also along the banks of the railroad which here runs close along the west bank of the Thames river. Unfortunately the herbage beside the track is mowed so frequently that the plant does not get the chance to spread that it would otherwise have. Whether this species occurs also on any of the neighboring hills, or on the east side of the Thames, as seems not improbable, the writer has had no opportunity to ascertain.

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Reviews of Foreign Literature.

Sur certains Rapports entre L' Arabie Heurense et L'Ancienne Egypte, résultant de son dernier Voyage au Yémen; par le Dr. G. Schweinfurth. M. E. Autran, Genève, 1890.

Situated on the high road to India, the southwest corner of Arabia has been from time immemorial the rallying point for all the tribes of the far east, and notwithstanding its accessibility and reputed character for hospitality, it has been a comparatively little traveled country. The history of botanical exploration in Yémen began 128 years ago, when Peter Farskal joined Karsten Niebuhr's remarkable expedition and six months later died in Arabia, leaving a valuable collection of scientific documents, which were published by Niebuhr under the title of "Flore Ægyptiaco-Arabique." Forskal's plants are now preserved at Copenhagen. Seventy-four years later a French botanist, P. E. Botta, collected in southern Arabia and his plants are now in the Muséum du Jardin des Plantes at Paris. In 1825 G. Erenberg and Hemprich explored Qunfuda and the surrounding valleys and their collections are among the most valuable in the Berlin museum. Albert Denflers traveled through Yémen in 1887 and during the winter of 1888-89 Dr. Schweinfurth collected 920 species and confirmed many of Forskal's discoveries. The ancient Egyptians cultivated certain trees, dedicated to certain divinities, and among them were the Persea of the ancient Greeks (*Mimusops Schimperi,*) and the Sycamore; the leaves and fruit of both trees having been frequently found in ancient tombs, where they had been deposited as offerings. The "Persea" (not to be confounded with *Persea gratissima,* Gaertn.) has for centuries disappeared from Egypt, but the Sycamore is still found there in large quantites, though only in cultivation. The region of the Upper Nile, rich as it is in Fig-tree species having characteristics that bring them into close relation to the Sycamore, has not as yet shown any in a wild state that might be considered its ancestor. Dr. Schweinfurth gathering from Forskal's notes that in Arabia were to be found species allied to the Egyptian Sycamore, was especially interested in searching for them and learned that the Fig-tree, known as "Chanès" in the mountains and as "Bourra" on the plains, is identical with the Egyptian tree which incontestably has its origin there. He also found the "Persea" growing wild and called "Lebbakh," a term used by the Arab geographers of the middle ages and which to-day in Egypt is appied to an Acacia introduced from India (*Albizzia Lebbek,*) and is now as "Lebbakh," a widespread roadside tree.

The fact that there are in Arabia to-day trees indigenous to the country that several centuries ago,. and for three thousand years were considered as sacred in Egypt, may possibly throw great light on the ancient relations of the two countries.

A. M. V.